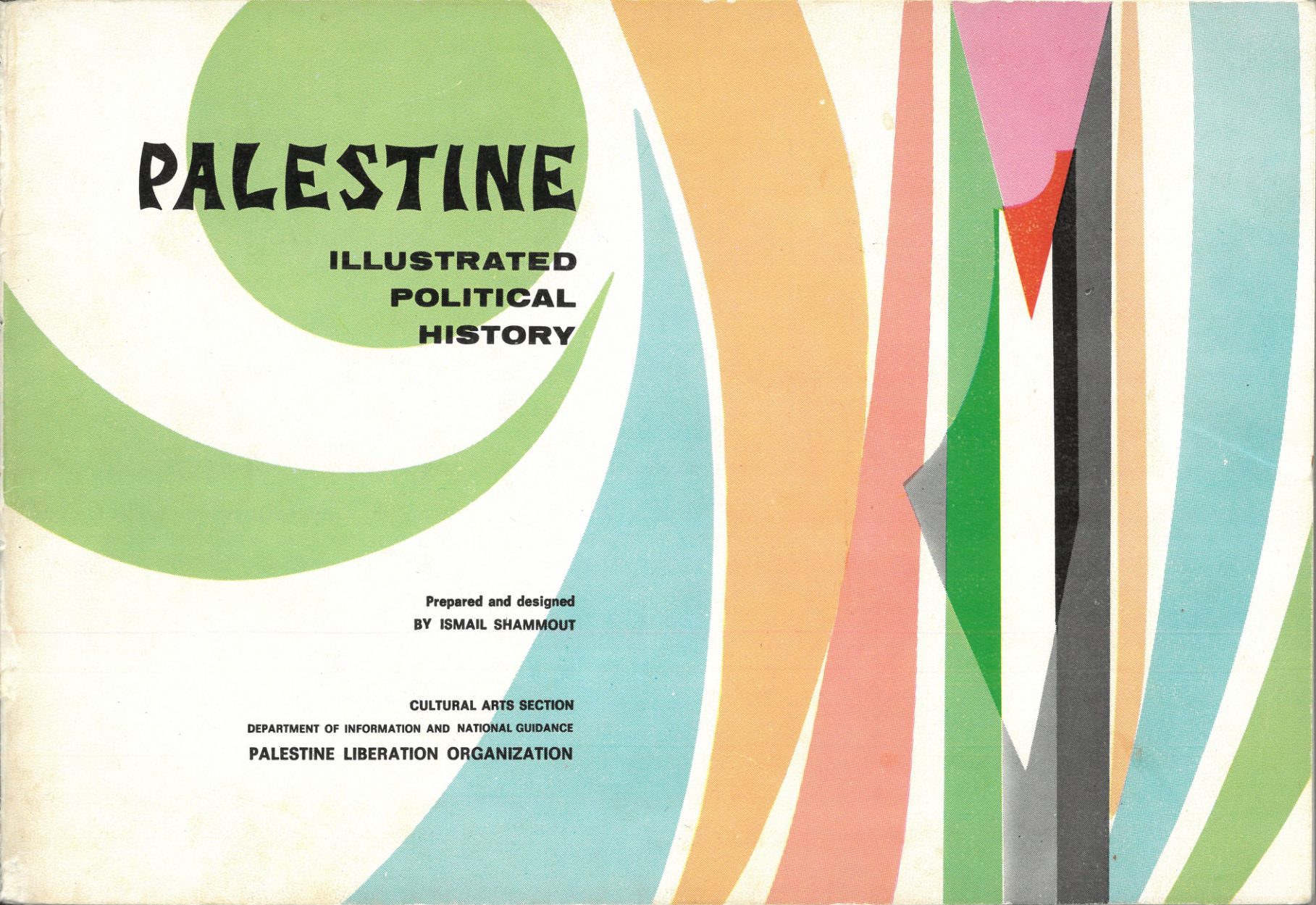
PALESTINE

ILLUSTRATED POLITICAL HISTORY

Prepared and designed
BY ISMAIL SHAMMOUT

CULTURAL ARTS SECTION
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION



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Translated by : Abdul-Qader DAHER

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1972

FOREWORD

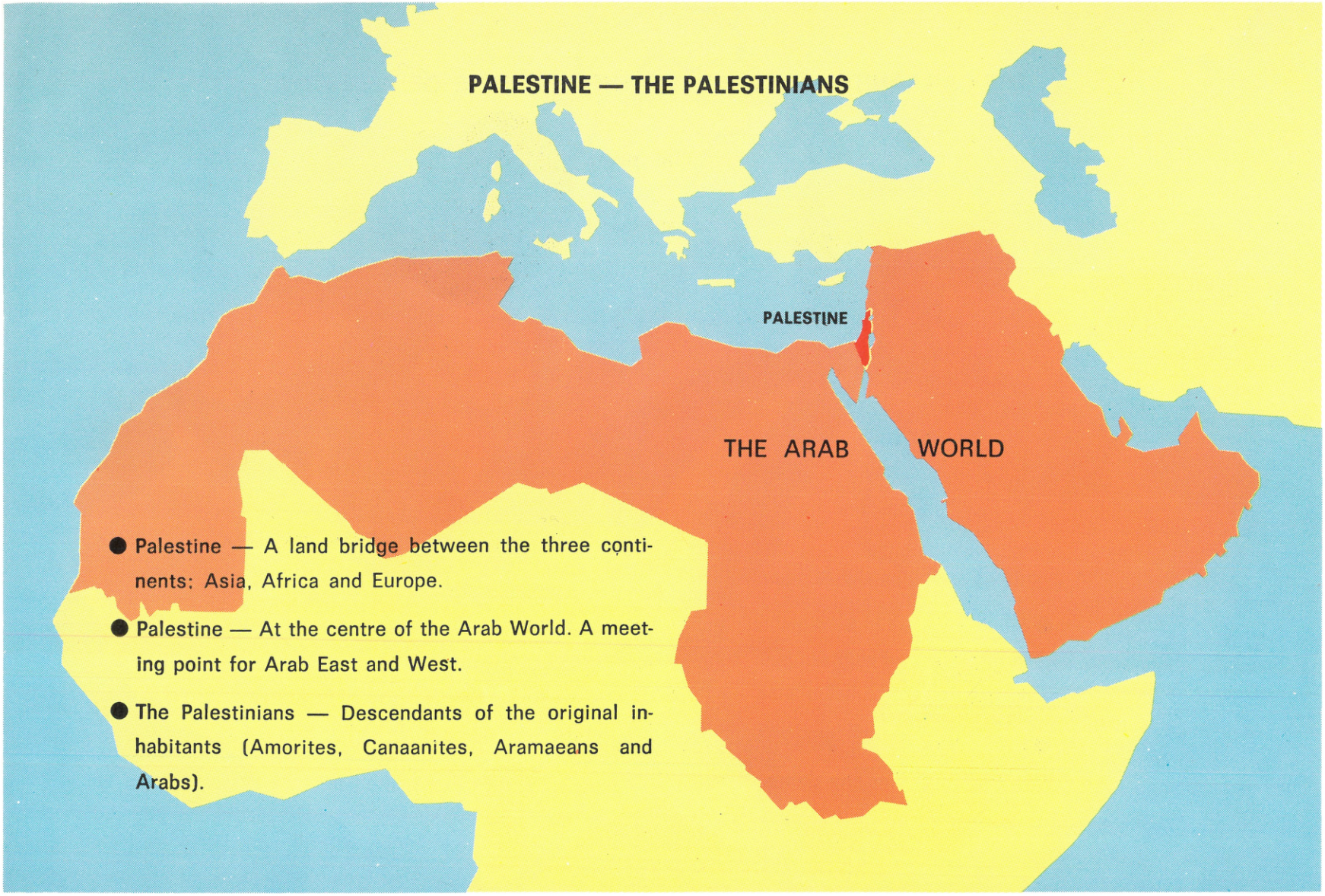
Possibly, on both the local and international scenes, no issue has been as widely covered — because of its prolonged impact on the lives of millions of people — as the Palestinian problem, nevertheless, the majority of peoples is oblivious to its fundamentals and particulars. The gravity of this is accentuated because most people do not acknowledge their ignorance; instead, they replace facts and self-evident truths with muddled beliefs, faulty information and preconceived notions. This is prompted by historical and psychological considerations which are exploited by capable, belligerent and prejudiced propaganda machines that govern people's minds and bars them from truth so that the Palestinian endeavours, short lived, spasmodic and limited, fail to traverse these obstacles even partially.

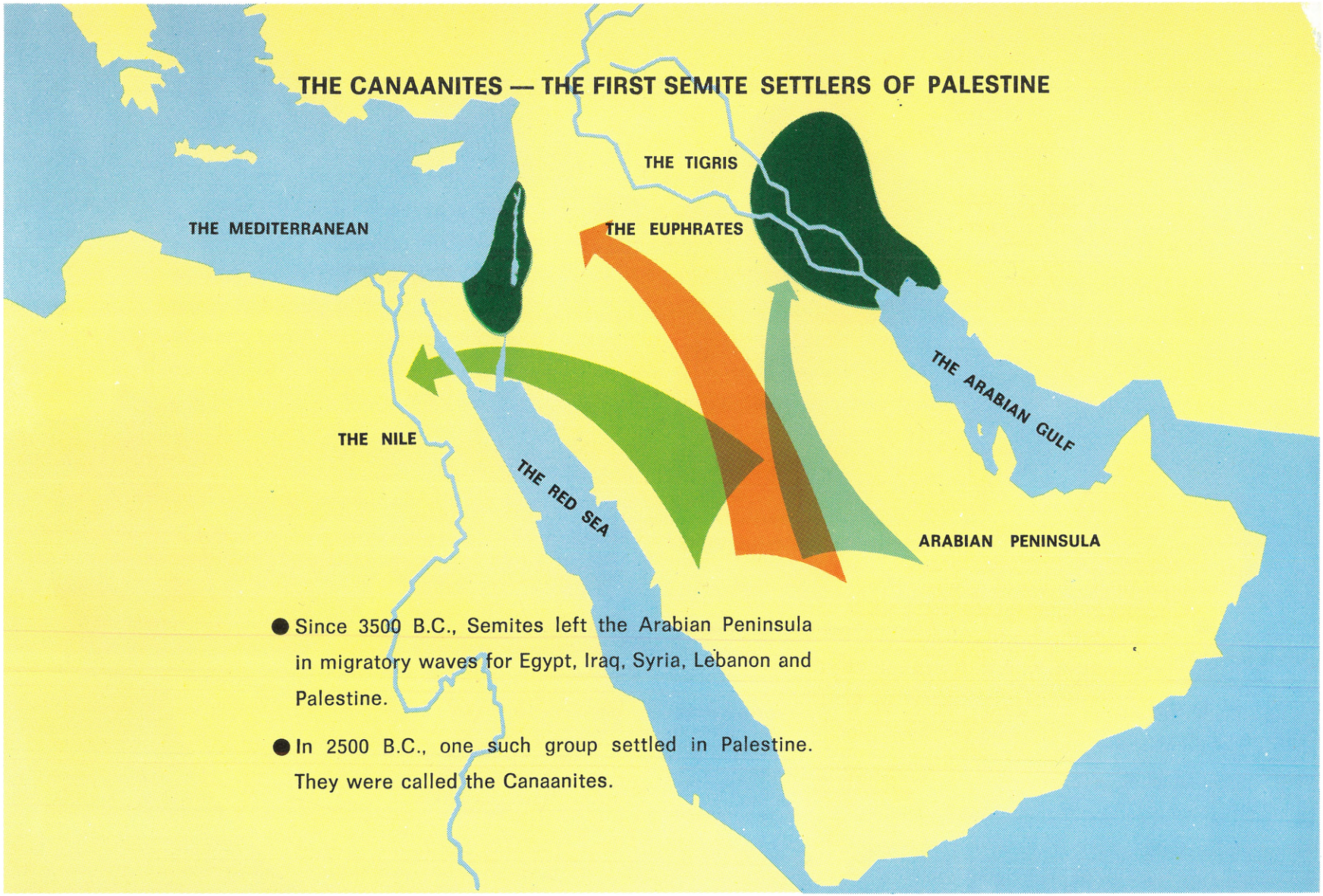
But the Palestinian people will not despair; first, because their cause is just, for he who has a just cause must persevere and continue his mission regardless of obstacles. Second, the Palestinian people are revolutionary and a revolutionary is commissioned to promulgate his cause in his struggle against oppression and tyranny. Third, the Palestinian people believe that the entire world constitutes one family, despite the presence of leeches (individuals, classes, organizations or groups with vested interests) who sow the seeds of discord in the ranks of the people and mislead them. The Palestinian people believe that their revolution is an

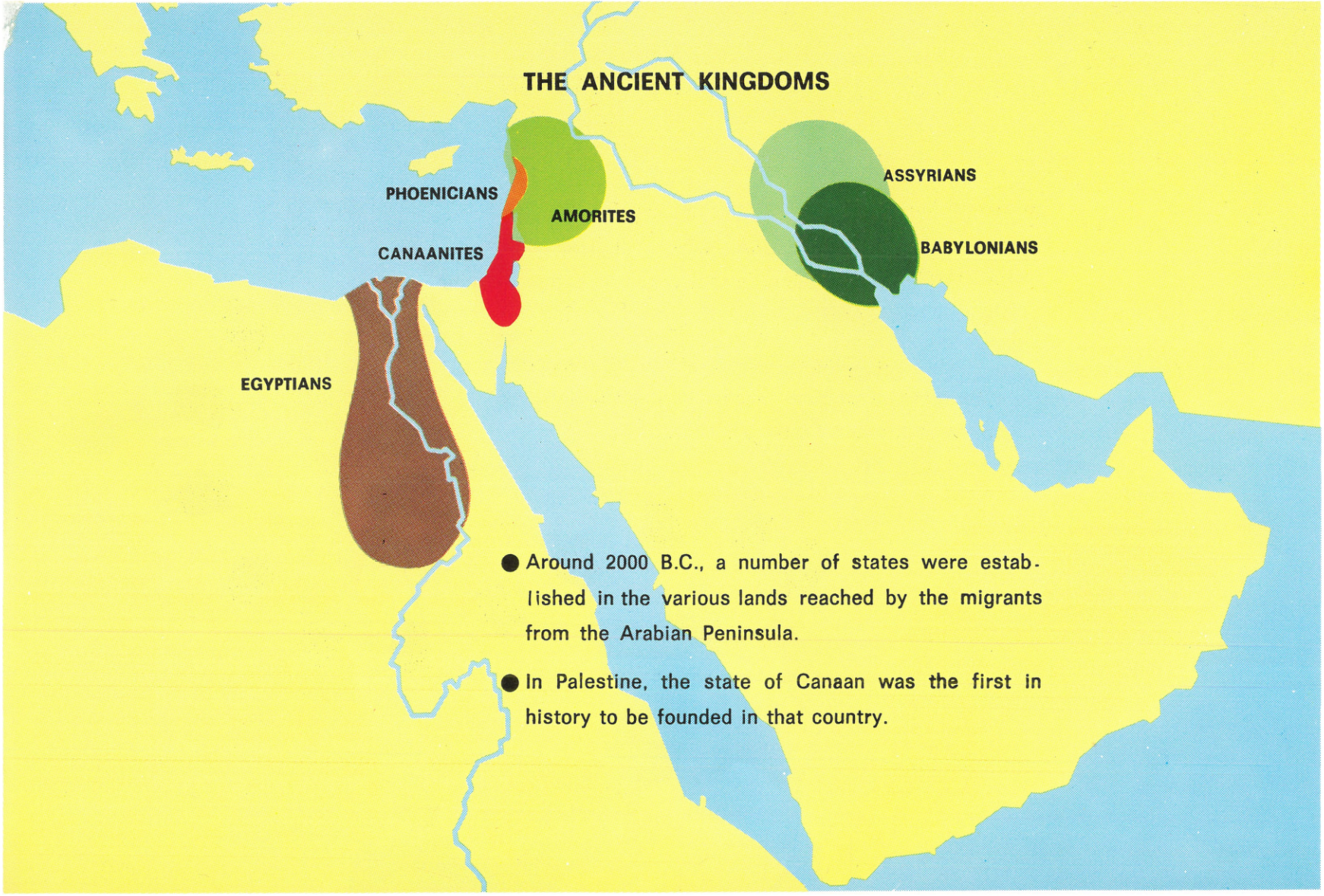
integral part of the revolutions of all the oppressed throughout the world. Consequently, they must proclaim to their brethren and friends all information pertaining to the rights, problems, circumstances and objectives of the Palestinian revolution so that the Palestinians will not be isolated in their struggle, and so that their revolution will complement kin revolutions throughout the world which work for liberation and progress.

This book is an attempt to carry the voice of the Palestinian people to the world quietly and unostentatiously, but also vigorously, truthfully and purposefully by means of illustrations, maps, charts along with a few words of text.

Dr. Anis SAYEGH
Director General of the Research Center
P. L. O.

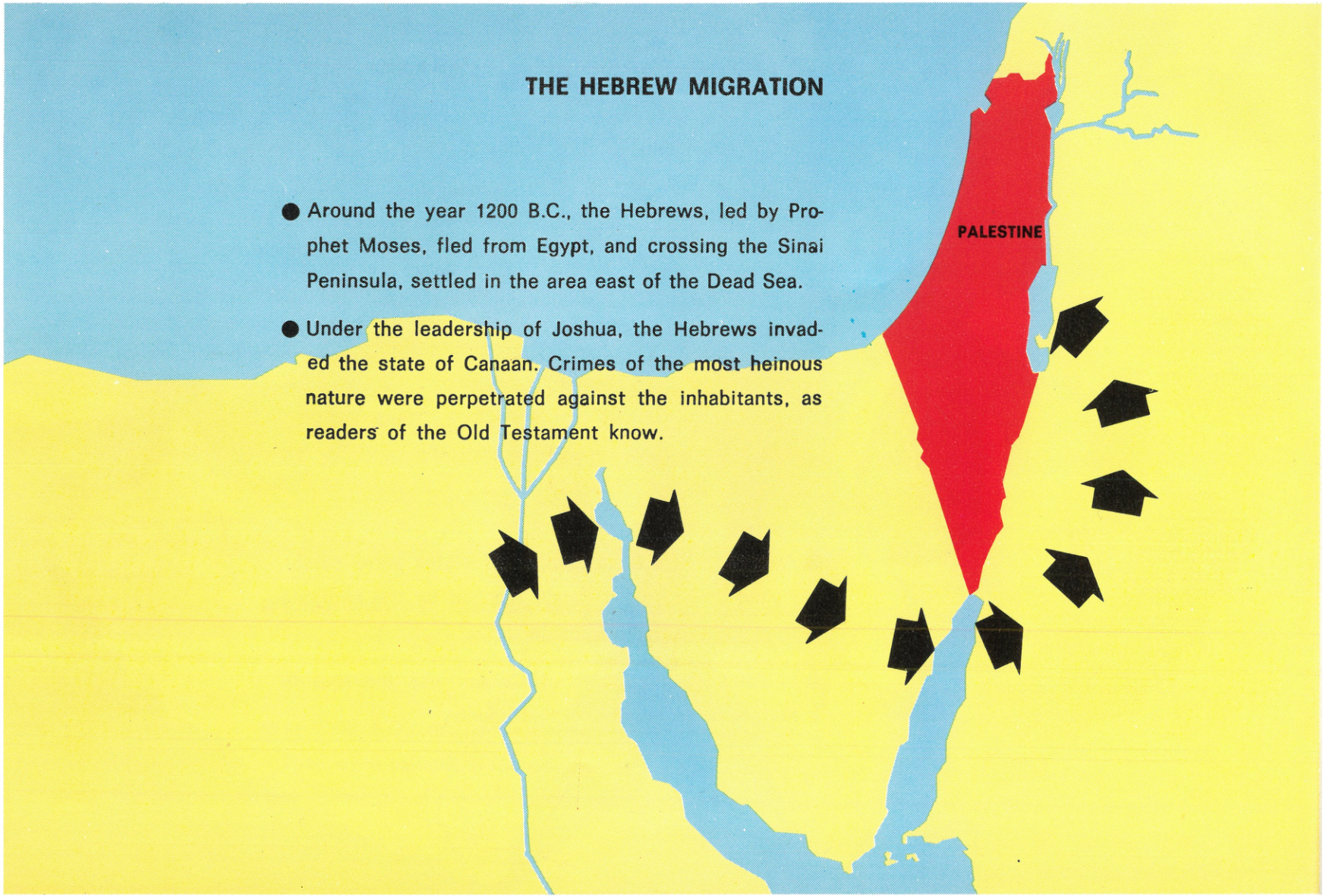

PALESTINE — THE PALESTINIANS
PALESTINE
THE ARAB WORLD
● Palestine — A land bridge between the three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.
● Palestine — At the centre of the Arab World. A meeting point for Arab East and West.
● The Palestinians — Descendants of the original inhabitants (Amorites, Canaanites, Aramaeans and Arabs).


THE CANAANITES — THE FIRST SEMITE SETTLERS OF PALESTINE
THE TIGRIS
THE MEDITERRANEAN
THE EUPHRATES
THE ARABIAN GULF
THE NILE
THE RED SEA
ARABIAN PENINSULA
● Since 3500 B.C., Semites left the Arabian Peninsula in migratory waves for Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine.
● In 2500 B.C., one such group settled in Palestine. They were called the Canaanites.

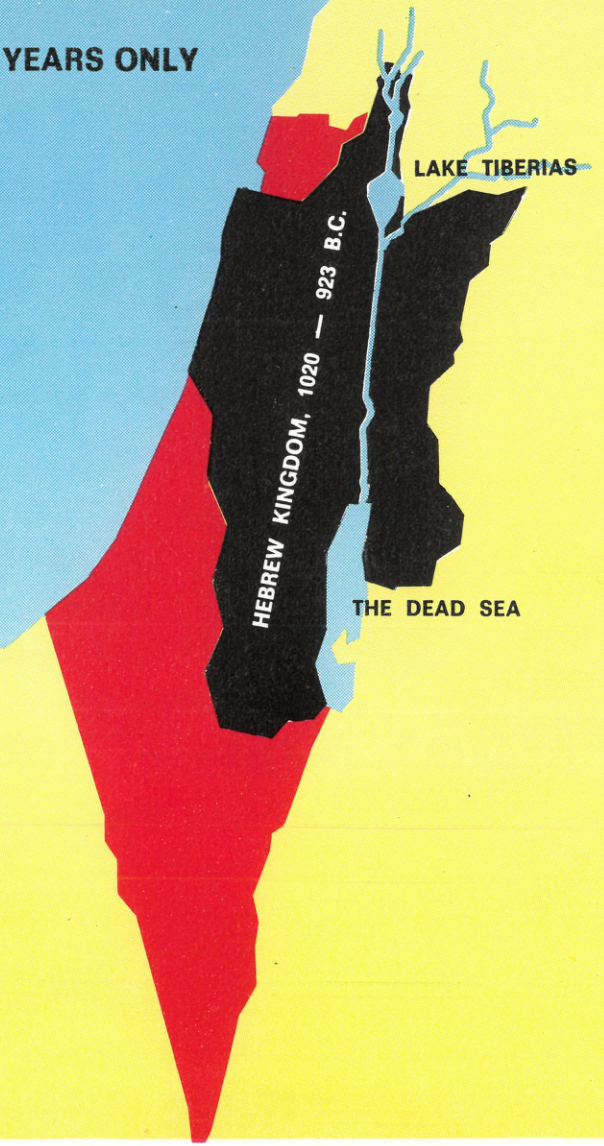

THE ANCIENT KINGDOMS
PHOENICIANS
AMORITES
CANAANITES
ASSYRIANS
BABYLONIANS
EGYPTIANS
● Around 2000 B.C., a number of states were established in the various lands reached by the migrants from the Arabian Peninsula.
● In Palestine, the state of Canaan was the first in history to be founded in that country.

THE HEBREW MIGRATION

- Around the year 1200 B.C., the Hebrews, led by Prophet Moses, fled from Egypt, and crossing the Sinai Peninsula, settled in the area east of the Dead Sea.
- Under the leadership of Joshua, the Hebrews invaded the state of Canaan. Crimes of the most heinous nature were perpetrated against the inhabitants, as readers of the Old Testament know.



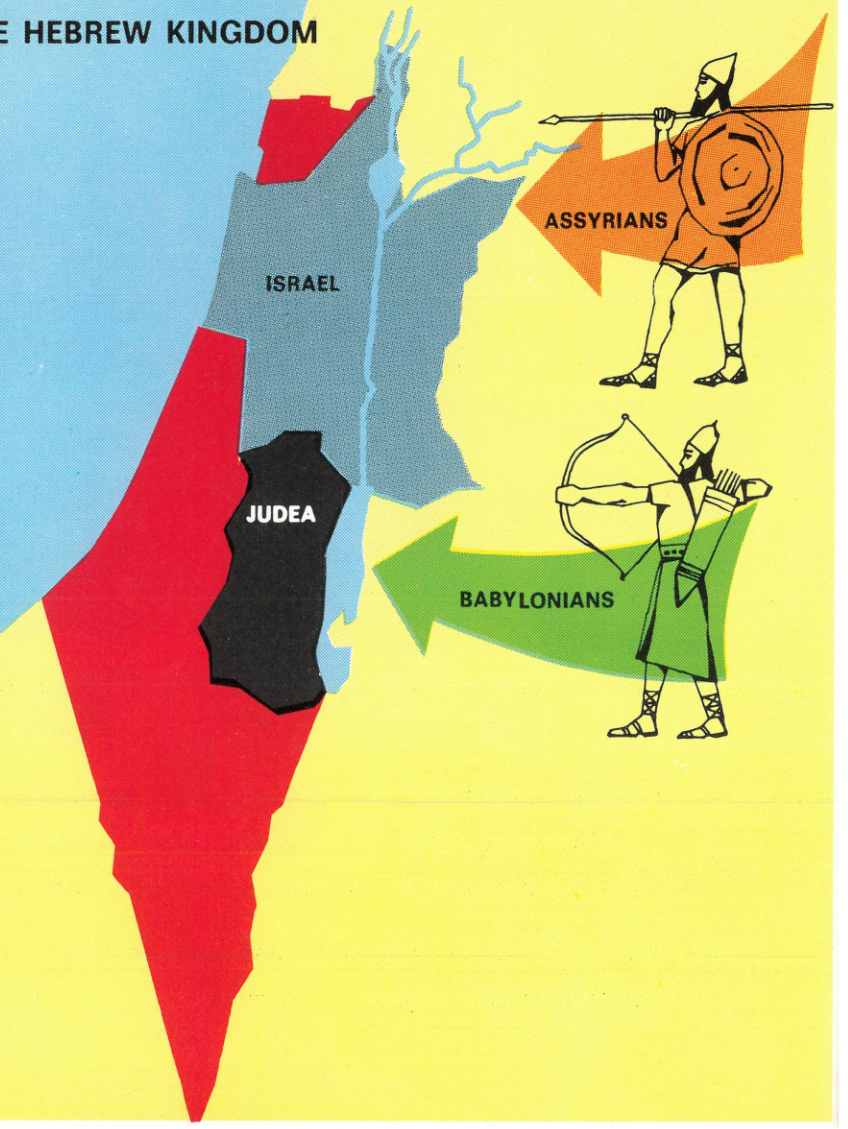
ONE HUNDRED YEARS ONLY



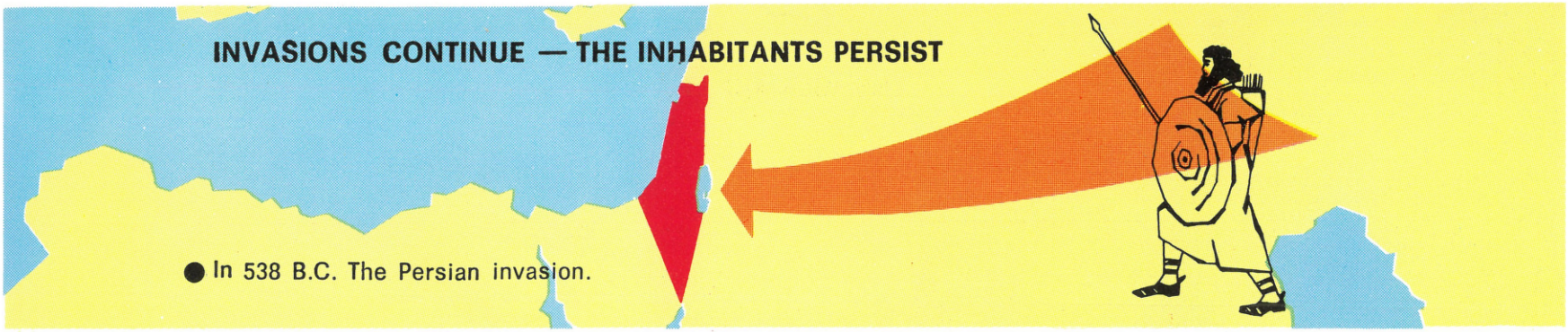
- The Hebrews were only able to occupy parts of Palestine and of the area east of the Jordan River. Their kingdom was founded in the year 1020 B.C. by King Saul.
  His successors, King David and King Solomon ruled until 923 B.C.
- Under the guidance of the original communities of the occupied areas, the invading Jews gained their first experience in agriculture and urbanization.
- Other parts of Palestine remained under the free control of the original inhabitants.

THE DOWNFALL OF THE HEBREW KINGDOM

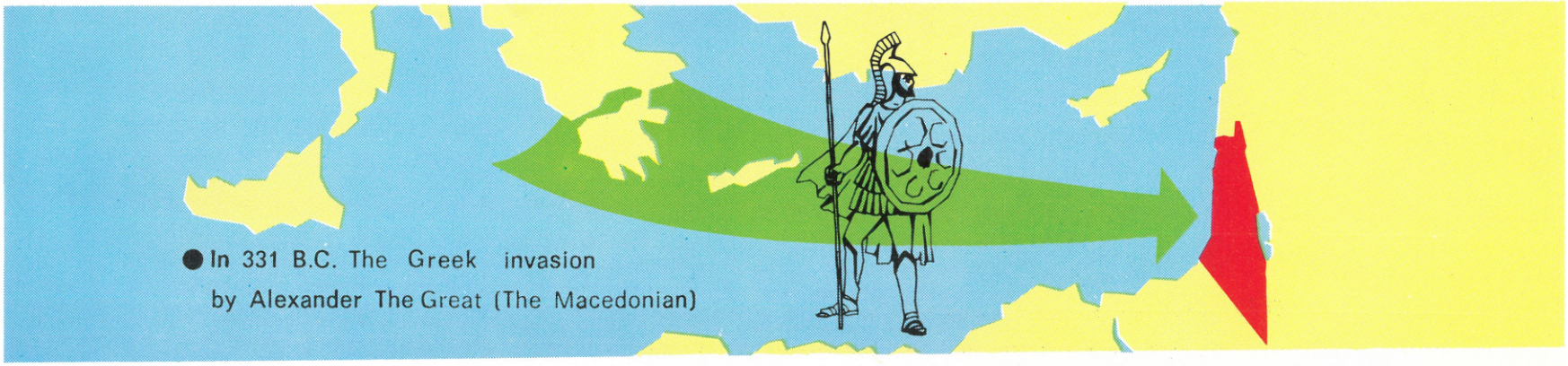
- In 923 B.C., during the reign of King Solomon, the Hebrew Kingdom suffered a rupturous split. The Kingdom of Israel took the northern part while the south was dominated by the Kingdom of Judea.
- In 722 B.C., the northern kingdom was swept over by the Assyrians.
- In 586 B.C., the Babylonians brought to an end the southern kingdom, and the Hebrew reign in Palestine was terminated. A very small number of Hebrews chose to remain in the land as residents.
- Throughout this period, the original inhabitants kept their continuous residence in Palestine.



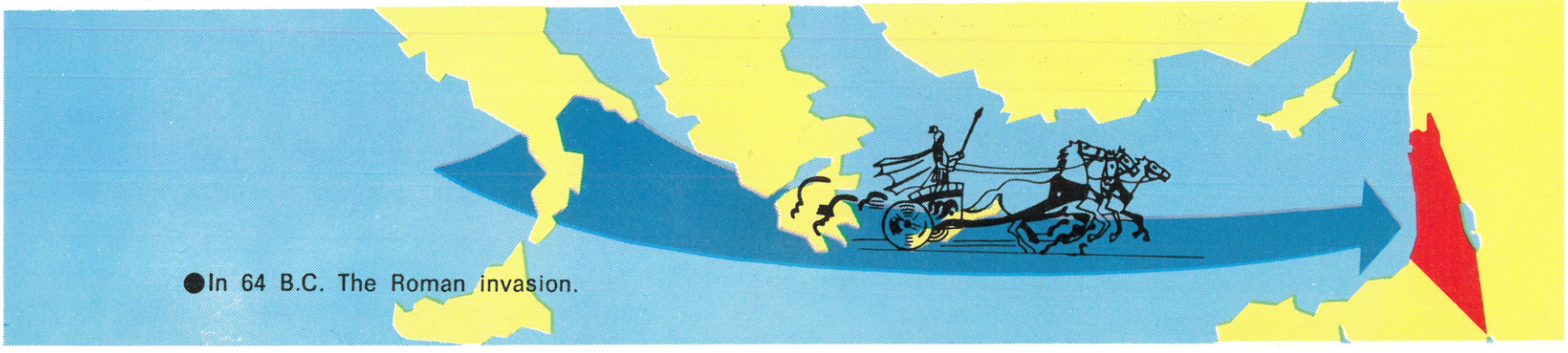
INVASIONS CONTINUE — THE INHABITANTS PERSIST



● In 538 B.C. The Persian invasion.



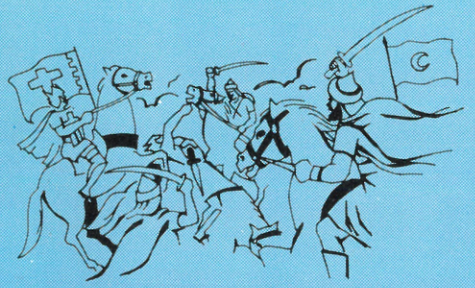
● In 331 B.C. The Greek invasion
by Alexander The Great (The Macedonian)



● In 64 B.C. The Roman invasion.

● The year 636 saw the convergence on the area of the great Arab wave from the Arabian Peninsula. From that date on, the Arab identity of Palestine and the surrounding regions has been uncontestably reaffirmed.

THE CRUSADES ...ANOTHER INVASION



- In 1099, the Crusaders captured the city of Jerusalem and the Crusader State of Jerusalem was proclaimed.
- In 1187, Saladdin recovered Jerusalem and drove the Crusaders out of large areas of Palestine.

THE OTTOMANS – FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF RULE
● The Ottoman rule — 1517 until 1917.
● In 1917, the Arab people of Palestine and other Arab countries rose against the Ottomans and joined ranks with the Allies during the First World War. The Allies had pledged complete independence for all Arab countries when the war ended.
The promise was not honoured, and independence was replaced by colonisation and the subsequent creation of a Zionist state in Palestine.

THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT

- In 1897, the first Zionist Congress was convened in Basle, Switzerland, under the chairmanship of Theodor Herzl. The following resolution was taken :
  « The Objective of Zionism is the establishment of a national home for Jews in Palestine. »

- In 1899, Davis Triestsch wrote to Herzl :

  « I would suggest to you to come round in time to the «Greater Palestine» programme before it is too late... the Basle programme must contain the words « Great Palestine » or « Palestine and its neighbouring lands » otherwise it's nonsense. You do not get the ten million Jews into a land of 25,000 Km2 ».

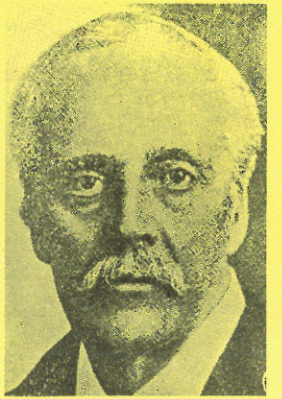
HERZL

THE BRITISH MANDATE — BEGINNING OF THE TRAGEDY

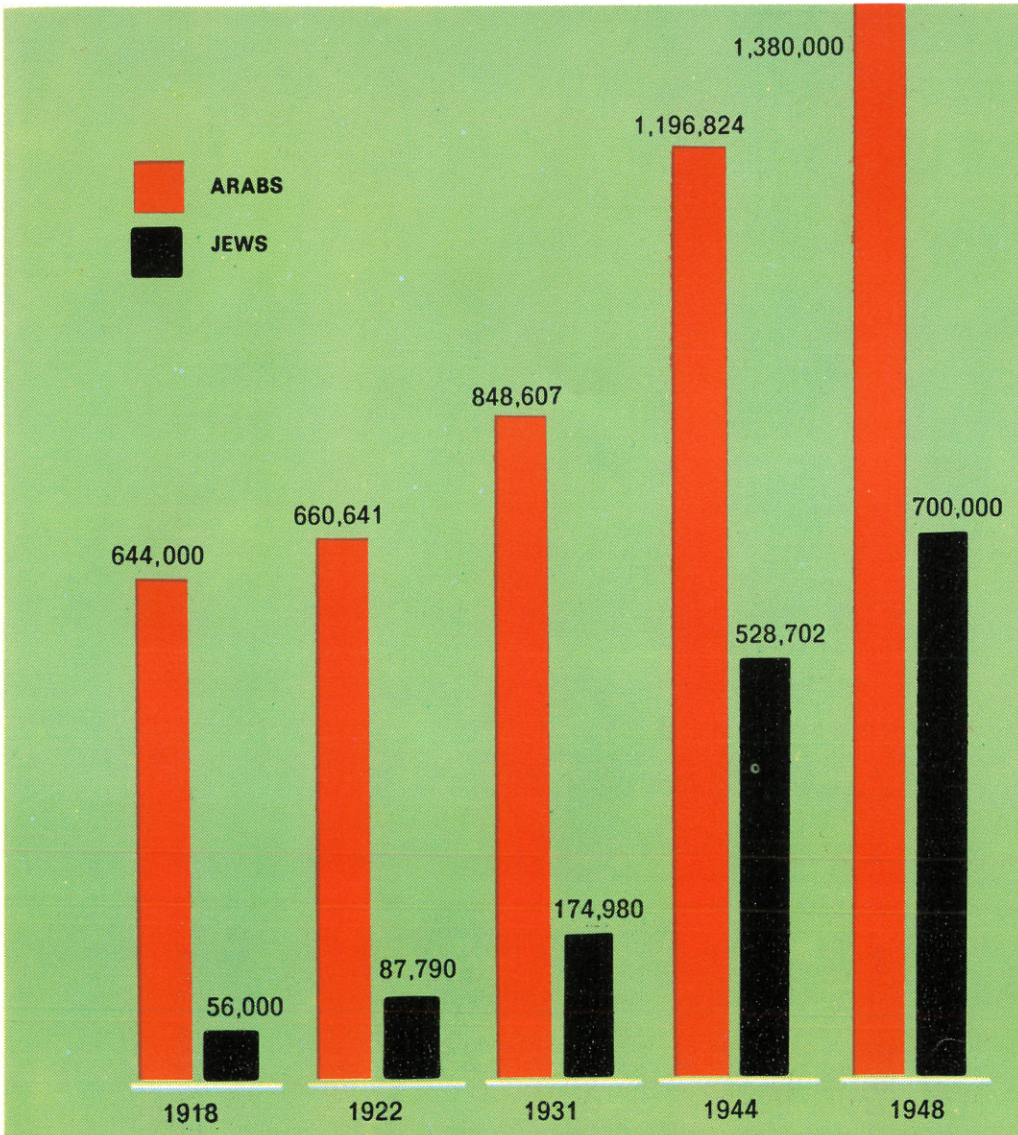
- In 1920, Palestine came under the British Mandate.
- On 2nd November 1917, the Balfour Declaration, the epitome of imperialist Zionist conspiracy, was issued.

Balfour Declaration :

« His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country. »



BALFOUR
British Secretary of Foreign Affairs - 1917



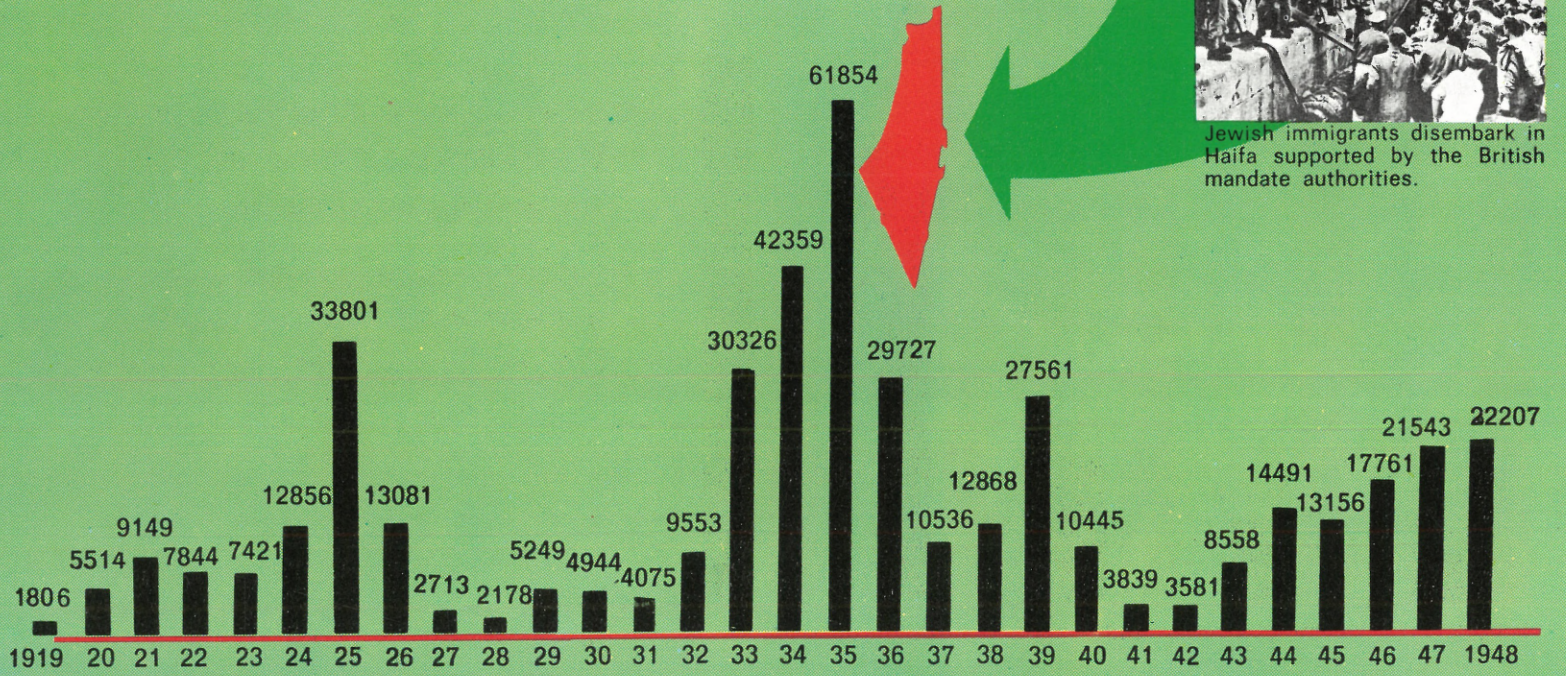
THE ARAB POPULATION AND THE JEWISH MINORITY

- In 1918, the Jewish community in Palestine constituted 8% of the total population. They owned 2.5% of the land.
- In 1948, following an extensive Jewish immigration drive, their ratio increased to 33% of the population. Their ownership of land amounted to 5.67% of Palestine.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION DRIVES INTO PALESTINE 1918-1948

● Figures of Jewish immigrants as reported in the British Official Records. These figures do not include clandestine immigration.

Jewish immigrants disembark in Haifa supported by the British mandate authorities.



PALESTINE — AN ENDLESS REVOLUTION

● The Arab people of Palestine rose in arms against Zionist colonialism. They staged successive revolutions till the termination of British Mandate in 1948.

50,000 MARTYRS

- The British Mandate Legacy in Palestine:
  - 196 patriots were hanged.
  - 300 patriots were sentenced to life hard labour.
  - Thousands of Palestinian Arabs were interned in prisons and detention camps.
  - Some 50,000 Arabs were killed throughout the British mandate over Palestine.

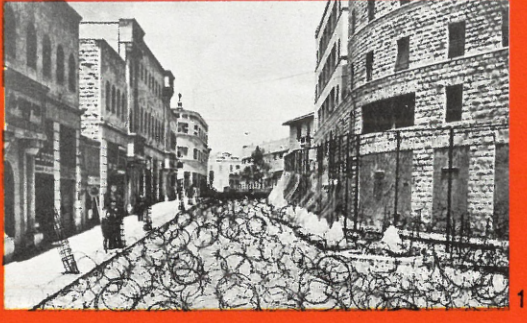
1919

1934

1936

1947

1948



1948

PALESTINE — AN ENDLESS REVOLUTION

THE PARTITION CONSPIRACIES 1936-1938

Partition Plan by the British Royal Commission. (1936)

Partition Plan by the British Commission (1938)

International Section
British Section
Arab Section
Jewish Section

THE PARTITION CONSPIRACIES 1946-1948

● Partition Plan by the Anglo-American Commission. (1946)

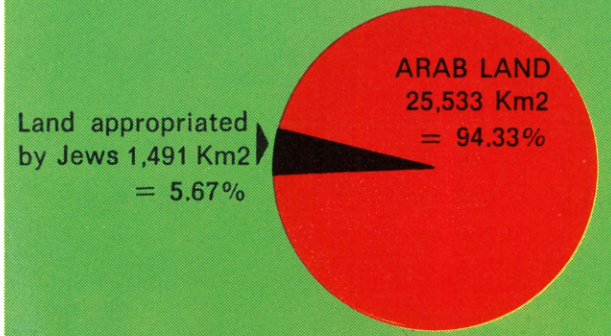
● Partition Plan by the United Nations Commission. (1947)

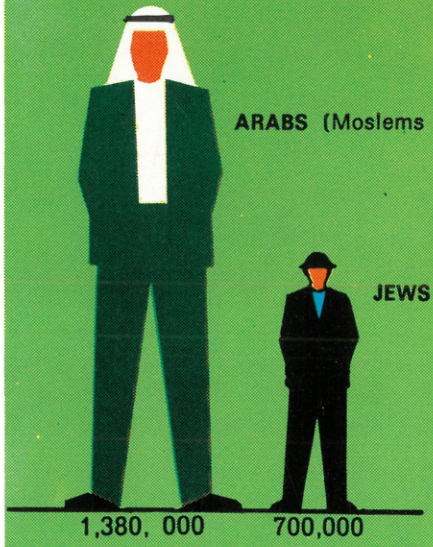
● Partition Plan adopted by the United Nations Organization (1947)

● Partition Plan proposed by Count Bernadotte,* the international mediator. (1948)

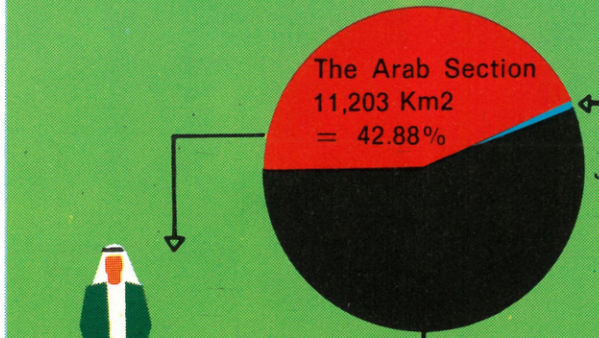
* On the day 17 September 1948, following submission of his report to the United Nations Organization, Count Bernadotte was assasinated. This heinous crime, in which Colonel Spiro, a French Aide to Bernadotte, was also killed, was committed by Israeli Army soldiers, expressing the displeasure of the Zionists over the mediator's « unfavourable » report.

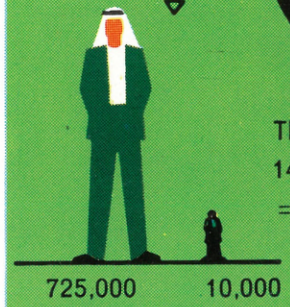
PALESTINE — 1948

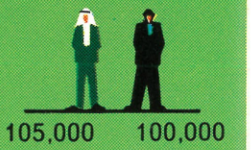


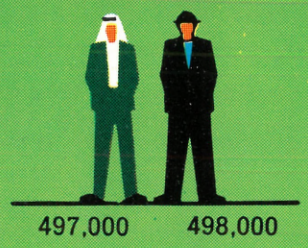


U.N. PARTITION PLAN









THE ANGLO-ZIONIST CONSPIRACY

● The British mandate authorities connived at the creation of Jewish political parties and military organizations.

Arab political organizations were discouraged and fighters mercilessly suppressed.

● On 8 April 1948, the Irgun (a terrorist Zionist organization which came into existence with the connivance of the British mandate authorities) staged a vicious attack on Deir-Yasseen, slaughtering every man, woman and child. The resultant spread of panic drove the Palestinian Arabs into seeking refuge.

● Upon their withdrawal from Palestine on 15 May 1948, the British armed forces handed most of their arms over to the Zionist terrorist bands.

THE 1948 AGGRESSION

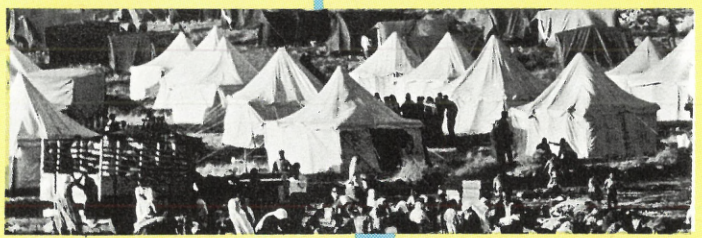
- Prior to 15 May 1948, Zionist terrorist bands, trained, equipped and supported by the British mandate authorities, staged a series of brutal attacks upon unarmed Palestine Arab civilians. A great number of cities and villages were occupied and the inhabitants thrown out.
- 15 May 1948, the armies of the neighbouring Arab states entered Palestine to protect the rights and lives of Palestine Arabs.
- The Zionist armed bands occupied 78% of the land mass of Palestine.

May 15, 1948 — Ben Gurion declares the establishment of the « State of Israel ».

- Area retained by Arabs
- Area designated as Arab by the U.N. Partition Plan but occupied by Zionists.
- Area designated as Jewish by the U.N. Partition Plan.
- No-man's land.

1948 AGGRESSION — CONSEQUENCES

- Palestine was divided into three sections;
  - A — The occupied territory «Israel» — 20,673 Km2 or 78% of the country.
  - B — The West Bank — annexed by Jordan — 5,295 Km2 or 20.5 % of the country.
  - C — The Gaza strip — under the Egyptian administration — 354 Km2 or 1.5% of the country.
- 750,000 Palestine Arabs were uprooted from their homes and have taken refuge, mostly in pallid camps, in the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.



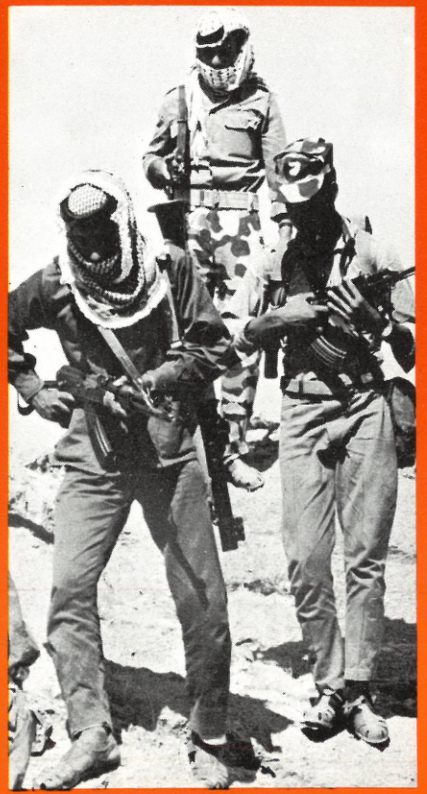
THE PALESTINE PROBLEM AT THE U.N.

- On 29 November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. The resolution was a flagrant violation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and of the Human Rights Declaration.
- The United Nations has since 1948 failed to check the hostile acts and aggressions committed by «Israel» against the Palestinians and the surrounding Arab states. During this period a total of 160 U.N. resolutions were arrogantly rejected by «Israel».

THE PALESTINE ENTITY ASSERTS ITSELF — BEGINNING OF AN END TO A STATE OF OBSCURITY

● On 28 May 1964, the first Palestinian National Council convened in Jerusalem. The Palestine Liberation Organization was proclaimed, and the Palestine National Charter drawn up.

PALESTINIANS TAKE UP ARMS



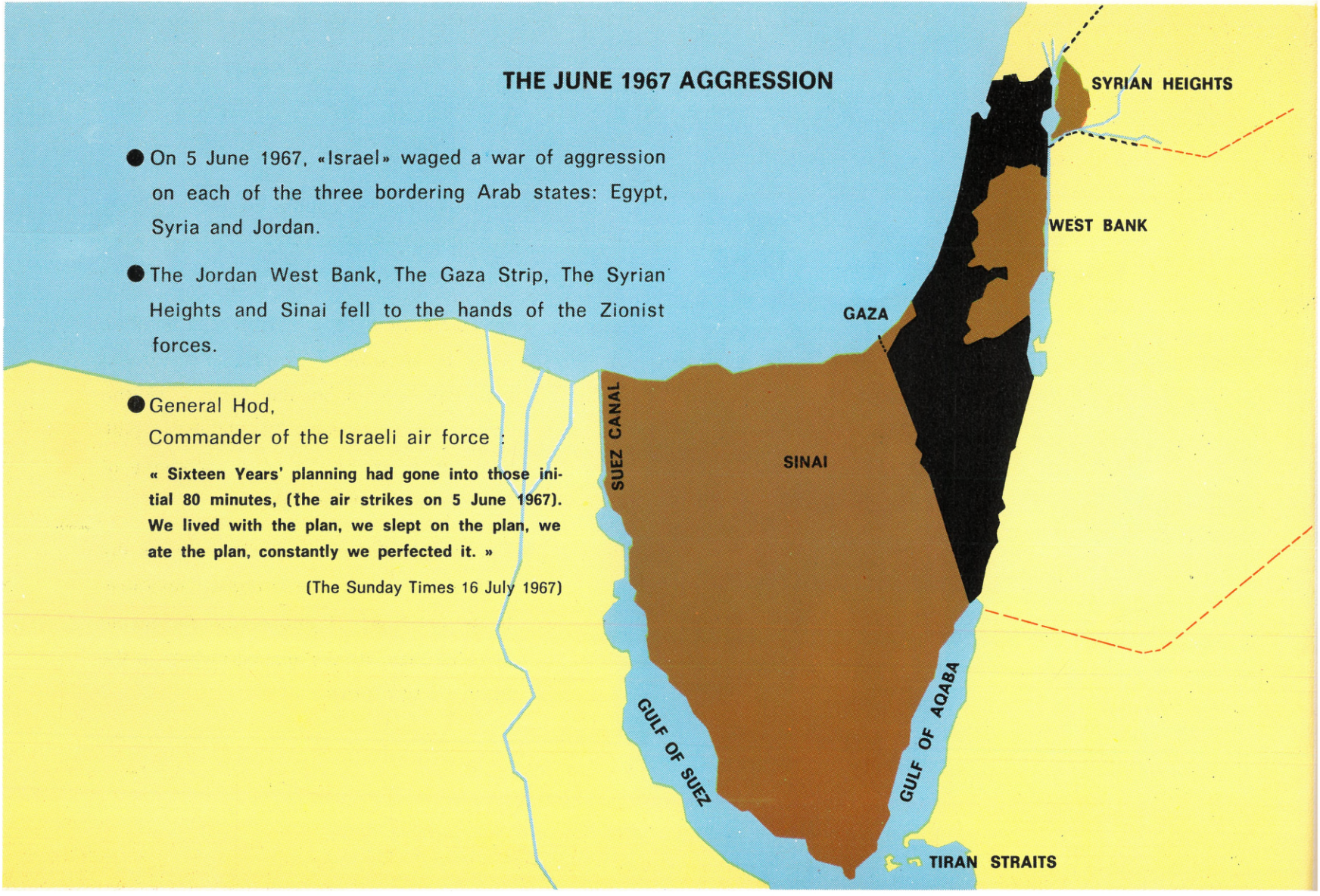
- In 1964, the Palestine Liberation Army was formed. A Palestinian military vanguard for the liberation of Palestine.
- The creation of the Palestine Liberation Army is considered as one of the most important events in the history of the Palestinian movement. The Palestine political entity attains the solid anchorage of an organized military force.
- The Year 1965 marks a decisive turn in the path of the Palestinian struggle. The Palestinian resistance fighters (the Fedayeen) initiated their strikes against targets in the occupied territories.

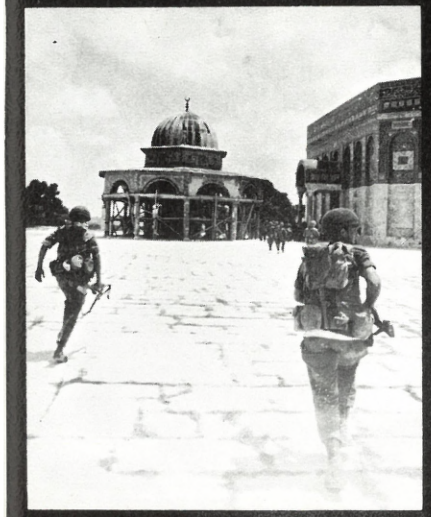
THE JUNE 1967 AGGRESSION

- On 5 June 1967, «Israel» waged a war of aggression on each of the three bordering Arab states: Egypt, Syria and Jordan.
- The Jordan West Bank, The Gaza Strip, The Syrian Heights and Sinai fell to the hands of the Zionist forces.
- General Hod,
  Commander of the Israeli air force :

  « Sixteen Years' planning had gone into those initial 80 minutes, (the air strikes on 5 June 1967). We lived with the plan, we slept on the plan, we ate the plan, constantly we perfected it. »

  (The Sunday Times 16 July 1967)





1967 AGGRESSION — CONSEQUENCES

410,000 New Palestinian refugees were forced to leave their homes in the Jordan West Bank and Gaza to take refuge in the East Bank.

Those living in the Syrian Heights and Sinai suffered the same plight.

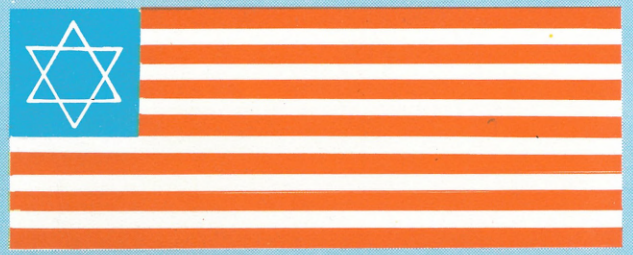
22 November 1967, the UN Security Council issued a resolution calling upon «Israel» to withdraw from lands occupied in June War.

Aba Eban « the Israeli Foreign Minister » states arrogantly:

« If the General Assembly were to vote by 121 votes to 1 in favour of « Israel » returning to the armistice lines — (pre June 1967 borders) « Israel » would refuse to comply with that decision. »

New York Times 19 June 1967

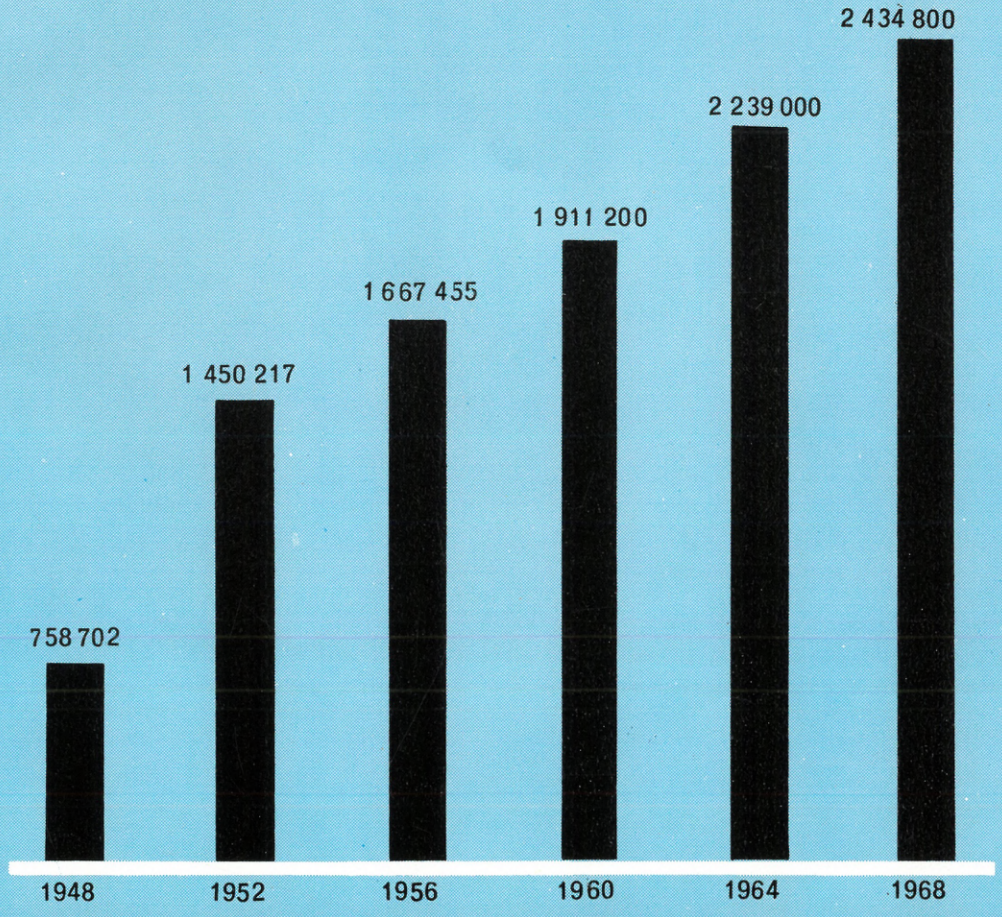
ZIONISM — AN ALLY TO IMPERIALISM



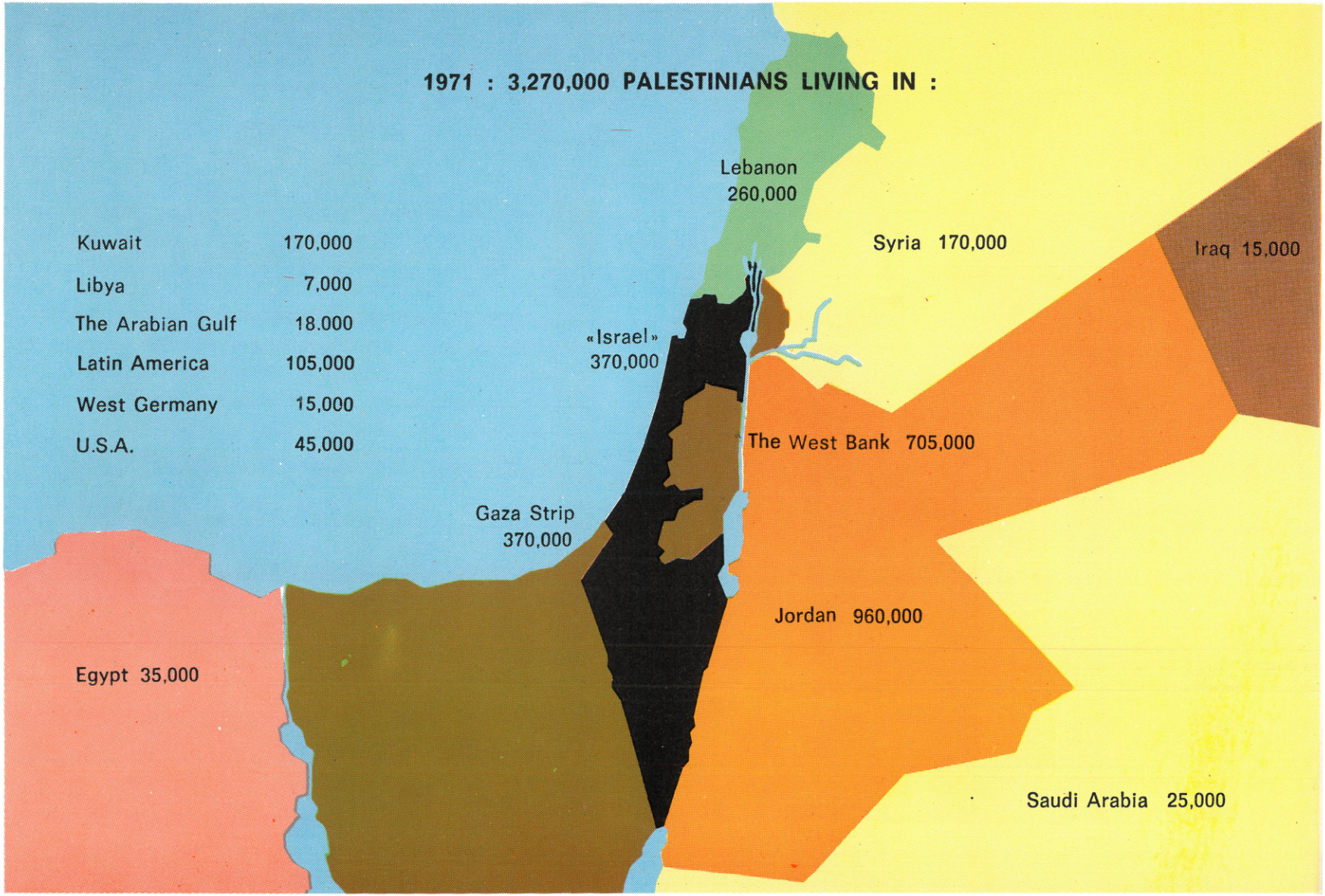
U.S. President Nixon and «Israel» Prime Minister Golda Meir.

- Zionism, as a movement based on racist foundations and by its adoption of narrow ethnic principles, is a basic ally to imperialism.
- The Zionist movement turned to the U.S.A. as its chief ally of the post World War II era.
- The U.S.A. granted «Israel» billions of dollars in aid plus an unlimited volume of military assistance which guaranteed the continued aggressive nature of the «Israeli» state.
- The Zionist-imperialist alliance poses a constant threat to the Arab World. It siphons off its potentials and creative capabilities and as such impedes its march towards progress, freedom and unity.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION CONTINUES



As a result of Zionist pressure, Jewish citizens of numerous countries of the world continued to migrate to occupied Palestine after 1948. The population of « Israel » 2,434,800 (1968).

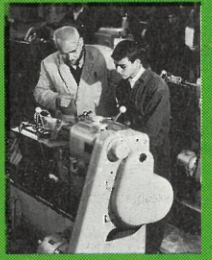

1971 : 3,270,000 PALESTINIANS LIVING IN :
Kuwait 170,000
Libya 7,000
The Arabian Gulf 18.000
Latin America 105,000
West Germany 15,000
U.S.A. 45,000
Lebanon
260,000
Syria 170,000
Iraq 15,000
«Israel»
370,000
The West Bank 705,000
Gaza Strip
370,000
Jordan 960,000
Egypt 35,000
Saudi Arabia 25,000

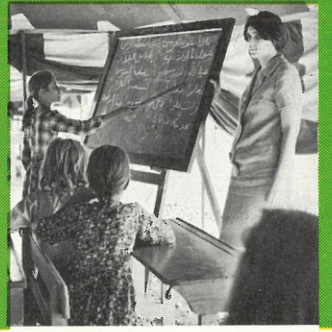
Leila and Mona, two Palestinians out of three million.

« There was no such thing as Palestinians, they never existed. »

«Israel» Prime Minister Golda Meir.

15 June 1969





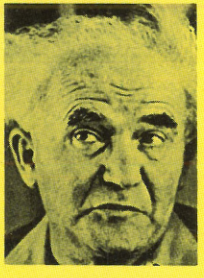
ZIONIST EXPANSIONISM

FROM THE NILE TO THE EUPHRATES

« It lies upon the peoples shoulders to prepare for the war, but it lies upon the Israeli army to carry out the fight with the ultimate object of erecting the Israeli Empire. »

Moshe Dayan.

on 12 February 1952. Radio « Israel »



« The present map of Palestine was drawn by the British mandate. The Jewish people have another map which our youth and adults should strive to fulfill — From the Nile to the Euphrates.»

Ben Gurion.

SYRIA

IRAQ

LEBANON

THE EUPHRATES

« ISRAEL »

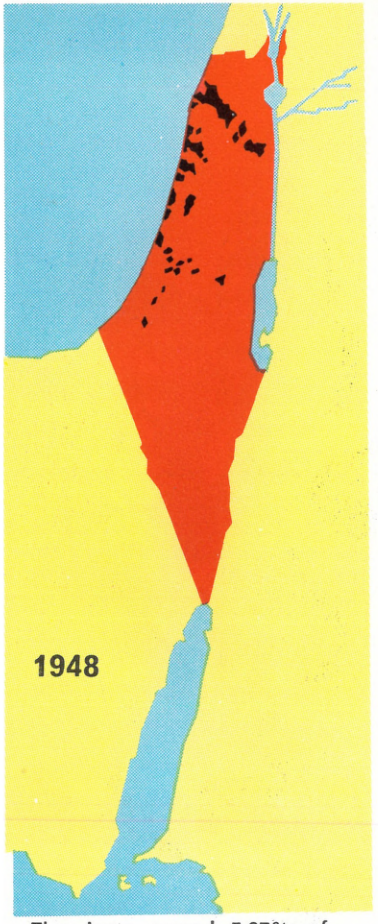
JORDAN

EGYPT

KUWAIT

THE NILE

THE ARABIAN GULF



The Jews owned 5.67% of Palestine.

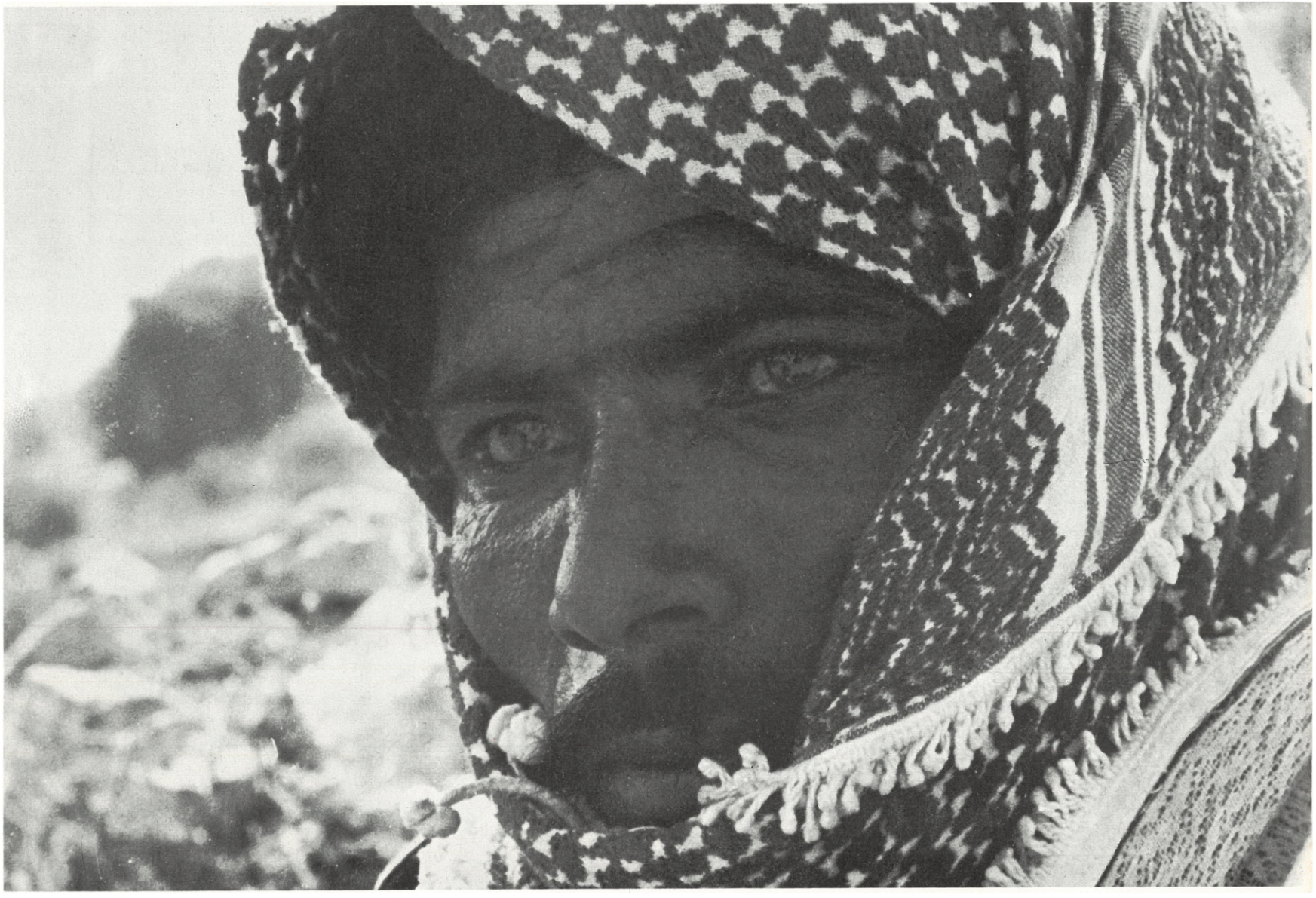
The Jews were allotted 56.47% of Palestine.

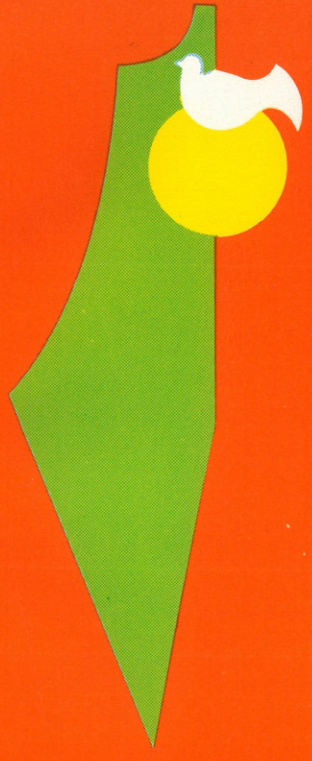
The Jews expropriated 78% of Palestine.

The Zionists invaded the remaining parts of Palestine as well as the Syrian Heights and Sinai.

THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION FIGHTERS « THE FEDAYEEN »

● The Palestinian voice, having been muted and neglected by the world community for years, has now, by the priceless sacrifices of the « FEDAYEEN » become strong enough for the whole world to hear.





TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC STATE IN PALESTINE

The Palestinians will keep on struggling as they have always done, for the liberation of Palestine, and for the erection of a progressive democratic state where everyone can live and enjoy equal rights and previlages, regardless of race or religious belief.